

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY MARAD(M-370):FBCASE
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:WTSHINN, JR.
GSA/FPA:FACKERSON
EUR/RPM:MPSTRUTZEL
EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE, JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069363

PASS FOLLOWING VIA NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (NWCS)

E.O. 11652: GDS

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DE RFWFS #9363 0770420
ZNY CCCCC
R 172200Z MAR 8
FM WASHINGTON
TO RFWI/LONDON
RFWZ/NATO SITCEN
B T

NATO CONFIDENTIAL FROM WASHINGTON

SUBJECT: INITIAL MANNING OF THE DEFENSE SHIPPING
AUTHORITY (DSA)

REF: AC/271-D/229

HQ NATO FOR IS CEP DIRECTORATE AND USNATO CEP OFFICER
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LONDON FOR MR. STYLES, PLANNING BOARD FOR OCEAN SHIPPING
(PBOS) LONDON SECRETARIAT AT DEPARTMENT OF TRADE,
SHIPPING POLICY DIVISION BRANCH 1 B, PARLIAMENT SQ HOUSE,
34/6 PARLIAMENT STREET, LONDON SW1A 2ND

1. THE OBJECT OF KEEPING EXISTING PLANS IN AS GOOD
ORDER AS POSSIBLE IS APPRECIATED. HOWEVER, THE

CONCEPT LAID OUT IN THE REFERENCE IS SO WIDELY AT VARIANCE WITH PLANS NOW BEING DEVELOPED THAT IT IS, IN FACT, NO LONGER RELEVANT.

2. THE INITIAL MANNING CONCEPT OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS 4 TO 7, REVISED CHAPTER 2, PART VI, VOLUME 2 OF THE

DSA WAR MANUAL IS BASED ON THE SUPPOSITION THAT THE DSA WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND BROUGHT INTO OPERATION UNDER THE IMMINENT THREAT OF NUCLEAR ATTACK. THIS IS NOT IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REVISED BASIC ASSUMPTIONS IN CM(71)17 WHICH IMPLY THAT THE DSA WOULD BE ESTABLISHED UNDER CONVENTIONAL WAR CONDITIONS, WITH THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR EXISTING BUT NOT IMMEDIATE. IT FOLLOWS THAT THE ENTIRE COMPLEMENT OF THE DEFENSE SHIPPING EXECUTIVE BOARD/REGIONAL SHIPPING BOARD (DSEB/RSB)-EAST AND RSB-WEST WOULD BE EMPLOYED FROM THE TIME OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DSA. IN OUR VIEW, THE INITIAL MANNING ARRANGEMENT IS ERRONEOUS IN CONCEPT.

3. THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 3 HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY PLANNING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CIVIL SEALIFT GROUP.

4. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT AC/271-D/229 NOT BE ISSUED AND THAT THE SUBJECT OF INITIAL MANNING BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PUT IN ABEYANCE UNTIL THE PLANS REVIEW STUDY GROUP (PRSG) HAS DEALT WITH THE TRANSITION FROM PEACT TO WAR.

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Message Attributes

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